



DRAFT MINUTES

PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, August 17, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. | 445 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard, Senate Chair
Rep. Steve Eliason, House Chair
Rep. Steve Waldrip, House Vice Chair
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore
Sen. Ann Millner
Sen. Kathleen Riebe
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Sen. Ronald Winterton
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Craig Hall
Rep. Dan N. Johnson
Rep. Bradley G. Last

Rep. Karianne Lisonbee
Rep. Jefferson Moss
Rep. Susan Pulsipher
Rep. V. Lowry Snow
Rep. Robert M. Spendlove

Members Absent:

Rep. Marie H. Poulson

Staff Present:

Lorna Wells, Committee Secretary
Maddy Orritt, Economist
Ben Leishman, Finance Manager
Emily Willis, Financial Analyst

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1 . Call to Order

Chair Eliason called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m.

2 . Adopt Minutes from 5/27/2020 and 6/1/2020

MOTION:

Sen. Hillyard moved to approve the minutes of the meetings on May 27, 2020 and June 1, 2020.
The motion passed with a vote of 16 - 0 - 3.

Yeas-16

Rep. J. Briscoe
Rep. S. Eliason
Sen. L. Fillmore
Rep. F. Gibson
Rep. C. Hall
Sen. L. Hillyard
Rep. B. Last
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. S. Pulsipher
Sen. K. Riebe
Rep. V. Snow
Rep. R. Spendlove
Rep. S. Waldrip
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-3

Rep. D. Johnson
Rep. M. Poulson
Sen. J. Stevenson

3 . Review of General Session and Special Sessions 3, 4, and 5

Emily Willis gave an overview of the Public Education budget changes since the 2020 General Session.

[3a, Public Education Budget Changes Overview](#)

Rep. Briscoe asked for clarification about the budget additions, reductions and changes. Emily Willis and Ben Leishman responded to his questions.

Sen. Hillyard asked questions about funding cuts versus program cuts for the math and science opportunities programs. He also asked about funding for foreign exchange students. Ben Leishman responded to both questions.

Maddy Oritt gave an update on state revenue and the economy.

[3b. Revenue and Economy Update](#)

Chair Eliason thanked the Legislative Fiscal Analysts' office for their outstanding work especially during the extremely difficult economic circumstances.

Ben Leishman gave some clarification about the MOST program.

4 . Review of Statewide Software Licenses

Emily Willis discussed the previous action taken by the committee regarding statewide PreK-12 Software Licenses.

[4a. Software Licenses Presentation](#)

Jennifer Throndsen, Director of Teaching and Learning, Utah State Board of Education gave an overview of the English Language Learning (ELL) software program and the procurement process.

Rep. Briscoe asked for clarification about student performance on certain software licenses. Jennifer Throndsen responded.

Rep. Gibson asked why this has become an issue now and asked several follow-up questions. Jennifer Throndsen responded to each question.

Sen. Millner asked about growth versus proficiency for the ELL program. Jennifer Throndsen responded.

Chair Eliason asked if other software vendors use student level utilization data. Jennifer Throndsen responded.

Sen. Riebe expressed concern about the need to have more local control.

Ben Leishman mentioned that some of these items will be discussed later in the meeting as they relate to possible funding reallocation legislation.

Sen. Hillyard asked about the participation in Imagine Learning of ELL students. Jennifer Throndsen responded.

5 . Report on COVID-19 Response and Impact

Sydnee Dickson, State Superintendent of Instruction spoke about the CARES Act Education Funding.

[5a. CARES Act Education Funding Issue Brief](#)

Sarah Young, Director of Strategic Initiatives, discussed the CARES Act Education funding.

[5a. USBE COVID-19 Response Presentation](#)

Patrick Lee, Director of School Finance, discussed the ESSER and GEER CARES Act Funding.

Lexi Cunningham, Executive Director, Utah School Superintendents Association discussed costs associated with opening K-12 schools in the midst of COVID-19.

Rep. Briscoe asked if the costs are being covered by the applications made by LEAs, Charter Schools and School Districts. He also asked about plans regarding procedures when outbreaks occur. He asked about technology currently being installed. Lexi Cunningham responded to each question.

Sen. Hillyard mentioned that some payments are one-time but asked if some of the benefits could have long-term impact. Sarah Young responded.

Darin Nielsen, Assistant Superintendent, discussed contracts for assessment vendors.

Sarah Young continued the presentation discussing Personal Protective Equipment procurement.

Sen. Hillyard asked if there is a requirement of a local match. Sarah Young responded.

Gopi Krishna, citizen, asked if PPE have been distributed to any of the private schools. Sarah Young responded stating that Private Schools can work with LEAs to obtain PPE.

Sen. Riebe mentioned that she has not seen any PPEs in the schools. Sarah Young responded.

Sen. Riebe asked how the mask mandate is going to be enforced. Superintendent Dickson responded.

Rep. Gibson asked about PPE standards in designated "green" counties. Superintendent Dickson responded.

Sen. Riebe clarified her statement regarding the mask mandate.

Joel Coelman, Superintendent, Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind gave an update from Utah Schools of the Deaf and Blind regarding the COVID-19 impacts.

6 . Report on Pupil Accounting

Ben Leishman provided an overview of some possible talking points regarding pupil accounting and some possible future legislation.

[6a. Public Education Bill Talking Points](#)

Sen. Hillyard expressed concern about the availability of bills presented during Special Session. He asked that the bills be made public as soon as possible.

Rep. Jefferson Moss mentioned that he has been working very closely with the agencies as the bill has been drafted.

Sen. Stevenson mentioned that the Executive Appropriations Committee is aware of the issues and has also been in contact with the state offices.

Angie Stallings, Deputy Superintendent, discussed updates to R277-419 and Waivers for the 990 hour and 180-Day requirements for the 2020-21 school year.

[6b. Update on 180 Day 990 Hour Requirements \[USBE\]](#)

Ben Leishman discussed prior year Average Daily Membership plus the growth portion of the bill.

Ben Leishman discussed the online Charter School enrollments portion of the bill.



Ben Leishman discussed the impacts on administrative costs especially for small schools portion of the bill.

Sen. Hillyard wanted to make sure there were some measurements in place for the \$3 million appropriation adjustment.

Rep. Moss mentioned that he would like to have the bill made public today.

Emily Willis gave some updated information regarding EAC meeting, Special Session, and the October Interim Meeting.

7 . Other Business

MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 18 - 0 - 1.

Yeas-18

Rep. J. Briscoe
Rep. S. Eliason
Sen. L. Fillmore
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Rep. C. Hall
Sen. L. Hillyard
Rep. D. Johnson
Rep. B. Last
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Sen. A. Millner
Rep. J. Moss
Rep. S. Pulsipher
Sen. K. Riebe
Rep. V. Snow
Rep. R. Spendlove
Sen. J. Stevenson
Rep. S. Waldrip
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-1

Rep. M. Poulson

Chair Eliason adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.